



FOREIGN PRESS CENTER

MIDTERM ELECTIONS MONITOR

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The Foreign Press Center is pleased to share with you this issue of the Midterm Elections Monitor - this resource will keep you informed of new reports, studies and major articles on the upcoming November 2, 2010 elections. The FPC is providing this resource in order to assist you in covering the elections, and the inclusion of any material does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation.

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NUMBER 3 – September 30, 2010

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Upcoming FPC Briefings

In order to facilitate your understanding and coverage of the midterm elections, the Foreign Press Center has arranged the following briefings with experts who will explain, discuss and analyze the congressional and gubernatorial races and important issues in the campaigns:

WHEN: Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

BRIEFER: Thomas Mann, congressional expert and W. Averell Harriman Chair and Senior Fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution

TOPIC: Scene-setter for the Midterm Elections

CONTACT: Miriam Rider at riderm2@state.gov or 202-504-6315

RSVP to above email or FPC Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDoS.FPC>

BIO: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/experts/mannt/mannt_bio.pdf

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WHEN: Tuesday, October 12, 201 at 1:00 p.m.

BRIEFER: Dr. Fred Beuttler, Deputy House Historian, United States House of Representatives, Office of the Historian

TOPIC: A Retrospective on House Midterm Elections

CONTACT: Alison Mann at mannat@state.gov or 202-504-6362

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BIO: <http://historian.house.gov/our-office.php>

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WHEN: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

BRIEFER: Alexander Burns, *POLITICO* reporter and political analyst on major television and radio shows

TOPIC: Hot House and Senate Races

CONTACT: Miriam Rider at riderm2@state.gov or 202-504-6315

RSVP to above email or FPC Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDoS.FPC>

BIO: <http://www.politico.com/reporters/AlexanderBurns.html>

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WHEN: Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

BRIEFER: Kate Zernike, *New York Times* reporter and author of “Boiling Mad: Inside Tea Party America”

TOPIC: The Tea Party and the 2010 Midterm Elections

CONTACT: Miriam Rider at riderm2@state.gov or 202-504-6315

RSVP to above email or FPC Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDoS.FPC>

BIO: <http://us.macmillan.com/author/katezernike>

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WHEN: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

BRIEFER: Dr. Raymond C. Scheppach, Executive Director, National Governors Association (NGA)

TOPIC: The Midterm Gubernatorial Races

CONTACT: Nicole Alberico at albericon@state.gov or 202-504-6317

RSVP to above email or FPC Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/USDoS.FPC>

BIO: :

<http://www.nga.org/portal/site/nga/menuitem.5cd31a89efe1f1e122d81fa6501010a0/?vgnnextoid=293c4c33c7732010VgnVCM1000001a01010aRCRD>

PLEASE NOTE:

The Foreign Press Center is planning a full range of programs for Midterm Elections Day, November 2, 2010 and days after:

Tuesday, November 2 – morning - tours to visit polls in Maryland where there are important Senate and gubernatorial races.

Tuesday, November 2 – afternoon – briefings with experts on the new Congress and the Obama administration and pollster John Zogby on the latest polls.

Thursday, November 4 – morning – briefing on how the election results will affect the Obama administrations’ agenda.

Upcoming FPC Tours

Save The Dates!

WHAT: FPC Tours on Understanding the 2010 Midterm Elections

WHEN: October 14: Wilmington and Dover, Delaware
October 25-26: Los Angeles, California
November 1-2: Miami, Florida

Ahead of the 2010 midterm elections, the FPC is coordinating reporting tours to facilitate foreign journalists’ coverage of some of the most contested and influential Senate, House, and gubernatorial races this year. Additional details on each tour will follow.

Delaware: October 14

Estimated costs: \$50-\$200 for one roundtrip Amtrak ticket from DC/NYC to Wilmington

After a stunning win by conservative activist Christine O'Donnell over Congressman Mike Castle in this month's Republican primary, Delaware's Senate election has taken on national significance. Her victory is an emblem of the Tea Party's strength against more moderate Republican incumbents, and national analysts are looking to Delaware as the latest example of 2010's surge of voter anger. While current polls indicate Democratic candidate Chris Coons sits on a solid lead, rumors that Congressman Castle is considering a write-in campaign threaten to make this race even more unpredictable.

RSVP: Dr. Alison Mann at MannAT@state.gov or (202) 504-6362.

California: October 25-26

Estimated costs: \$300-500 for one roundtrip flight from DC/NYC to Los Angeles; \$130/night lodging

Despite California's reputation as a solidly Democratic state, Republican candidates in the state's Senate and gubernatorial races enjoy favorable polls listing both as some of the nation's most competitive. In the state with the country's third-highest unemployment rate and which serves as the battleground of the many of the nation's most contentious social issues, former governor Jerry Brown is seeking his old seat against former eBay CEO Meg Whitman. Meanwhile, the battle for the Senate has three-term Senator Barbara Boxer against Republican challenger and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina. With both contests featuring career public servants against political newcomers, they provide a unique opportunity to examine voter attitudes in the nation's most influential state.

RSVP: Neda Brown at BrownNA2@state.gov or (646) 282-2832 OR Melissa Waheibi at WaheibiMN@state.gov or (646) 282-2835.

Florida: October 31-November 2

Estimated costs: \$200-\$350 for one roundtrip flight from DC/NYC to Miami; \$110/night lodging

After leaving his party to turn independent ahead of what promised to be a challenging Republican Senate primary, Governor Charlie Crist has experienced a sharp reversal of fortune in the polls. The popular governor, once in a commanding lead, has seen his advantage shrink as popular national Democrats have encouraged their supporters to back Representative Kendrick Meek over Crist for the state's Senate seat. Tea Party-backed Republican candidate Marco Rubio has also solidified his support, and his lead, demonstrating the strength the Tea Party's enthusiasm combined with the Republican Party's infrastructure can muster.

RSVP: Matthew Buffington at BuffingtonMC2@state.gov or (202) 504-6318.

- America in an Age of Open Field Politics by Michael Barone, *The American: The Journal of the American Enterprise Institute*, September 28, 2010 – web link: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/september/america-in-an-age-of-open-field-politics>
- David Axelrod “Eager” for Midterm Election by Stephanie Condor, *CBSNews*, September 27, 2010 – web link: [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20017775-503544.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CBSNewsTheEarlyShowLiving+\(CBS+News%3A+The+Early+Show%3A+Living\)](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20017775-503544.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CBSNewsTheEarlyShowLiving+(CBS+News%3A+The+Early+Show%3A+Living))
- Dems Retreat to Coasts as GOP Rules Vast Interior by Michael Barone, *Washington Examiner*, September 28, 2010 – web link: <http://www.aei.org/article/102594>
- Early Voting Has Campaigns Scrambling to Gain Support by Sean J. Miller and Shane D’Aprile, *The Hill*, September 29, 2010 – web link: <http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/house-races/121483-early-voting-has-campaigns-scrambling-to-gain-support>
- Election 2010 Redistricting Gains Will Give GOP Lasting Majority by Peter Roff, *U.S. News & World Report*, September 28, 2010 – web link: <http://politics.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/peter-roff/2010/09/28/election-2010-redistricting-gains-will-give-gop-lasting-majority>
- GOP's Big Money Men Return by Kenneth P. Vogel, *Politico*, September 24, 2010 - web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42662.html>
- Midterm Election an Uncertain Predictor for 2010 by Mark Z. Barabak, *Los Angeles Times*, September 25, 2010 - web link: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-midterms-2012-20100925,0,6093643.story>
- The Midterm Election of ’62: A Real October Surprise” by Rhodes Cooke, University of Virginia Center for Politics, September 30, 2010 – web link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/frc2010093001>
- Midterm Morsels by Larry J. Sabato, Director, University of Virginia Center for Politics, September 23, 2010 - web link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/ljs2010092301>
- Obama, Empathy and the Midterms by John Harwood, *New York Times*, September 25, 2010 - web link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/26/weekinreview/26harwood.html>
- Senate Forecast: Republican Takeover Chances Improved, But Democrats Are Building Pacific Firewall by Nate Silver, *FiveThirtyEight*, September 22, 2010 - web link: <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/22/senate-forecast-republican-takeover-chances-improved-but-democrats-are-building-pacific-firewall/>
- Tea Party Cool to GOP Pledge by Kenneth P. Vogel, *Politico*, September 25, 2010 - web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42700.html>

- The Tea Party, Explained by Steve Kornacki, *Salon*, September 24, 2010 - web link: http://www.salon.com/news/politics/war_room/2010/09/24/the_tea_party_explained/index.html

U.S. House

- Americans Predict GOP Will Win Control of the House in Fall by Jeffrey Jones, *Gallup*, September 28, 2010 – web link: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/143264/Americans-Predict-GOP-Win-Control-House-Fall.aspx>

- Holding Pattern in House Forecast by Nate Silver, *FiveThirtyEight*, September 25, 2010 - web link: <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/25/holding-pattern-in-house-forecast/>

- House Ratings Changes by Isaac Wood, University of Virginia Center for Politics, September 30, 2010 – web link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/itw2010093002/>

- How to Hold on to the House by Mark Penn, *The Hill*, September 27, 2010 – web link: <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/121177-how-to-hold-on-to-the-house>

- The National Republican Congressional Committee Expands TV Ad Buys by Alex Isenstadt, *Politico*, September 24, 2010 - web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42669.html>

- Will the Republicans Win Back the House in November? by Alfred Guzman, University of Virginia Center for Politics, September 23, 2010 - web link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/agc2010092302>

U.S. Senate

- Dems Play Defense in W. Va. Senate by Shira Toeplitz, *Politico*, September 28, 2010 – web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42824.html>

- Hollywood Ponies Up to Help Out Feingold in Tough Re-Election Fight by Susan Crabtree, *The Hill*, September 25, 2010 - web link: <http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/senate-races/120923-hollywood-ponies-up-to-help-out-feingold-in-tough-re-election-fight>

- Murkowski: GOP Senators Think I Have a Shot at Winning Reelection as Write-In by Michael O'Brien, *The Hill*, September 24, 2010 - web link: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/120755-murkowski-gop-senators-think-i-have-a-shot-at-winning-reelection>

- O'Donnell Taps Davis for Ad Magic by David Catanese, *Politico*, September 24, 2010 -web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42691.html>

- Plan B: Connecticut and W. Virginia Create New Outline for G.O.P. Senate Takeover by Nate Silver, FiveThirtyEight, September 28, 2010 – web link:

<http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/28/plan-b-connecticut-and-w-virginia-create-new-outline-for-g-o-p-senate-takeover>

Gubernatorial Races

- 2012 Hopefuls Court Would-Be Govs by Jonathan Martin, *Politico*, September 29, 2010 – web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42868.html>

- The Democratic Governors Association Names Seven 'O'Donnell's' by David Catanese, *Politico*, September 22, 2010 - web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42553.html>

- Gov. Forecast Update: Republicans Are Well Positioned by Nate Silver, FiveThirtyEight, September 29, 2010 – web link: <http://fivethirtyeight.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/09/29/gov-forecast-update-california-leans-democratic-ohio-new-hampshir>

- In Colo. Gov., GOP Becoming Third Party by David Catanese, *Politico*, September 28, 2010 – web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42847.html>

Latest Polls

- Can Women Save the Democrats? by Dan Balz, *Washington Post*, September 25, 2010 - web link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/25/AR2010092501787.html?hpid=topnews>

- Midterm Election Landscape Still Points to Republican Gains by Frank Newport, Gallup, September 27, 2010 – web link: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/143243/Midterm-Election-Landscape-Points-Republican-Gains.aspx>

- Pros Decry Abundance of Public Polls by Maggie Haberman, *Politico*, September 29, 2010 – web link: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0910/42849.html>

- Republican, Democratic Party Favorability Identical at 44%: Majorities View Both Parties Unfavorably by Jeffrey M. Jones, *Gallup*, September 23, 2010 - web link: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/143213/Republican-Democratic-Party-Favorability-Identical.aspx>

Upcoming Events Around Town

- Monday, October 4, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. - Brookings Institution Briefing on “Midterm Elections 2010: Driving Forces, Likely Outcomes, Possible Consequences.” Speakers: E.J. Dionne, moderator; Sarah A. Binder; William Galston, Thomas Mann; and Michael McDonald, all of Brookings Institution.

WHERE: Brookings, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW

CONTACT: 202-797-6105; web site: www.brookings.edu

- Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. – Brookings Institution Briefing on “The Tea Party, the Religious Right, and the American Religious Landscape.” Speakers: E. J. Dionne and William A. Galston, moderators; Robert P. Jones, CEO and Founder, Public Religion Research Institute; Karlyn Bowman, Senior Fellow, American Enterprise Institute; and Susan Thistlethwaite, Center for American Progress

CONTACT: CONTACT: 202-797-6105; web site: www.brookings.edu

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NOTE: For additional information on the upcoming elections and FPC programs, go to the FPC Midterm Elections website at: <http://fpc.state.gov/c38476.htm>

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